

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: FISHERIES PUBLICATION AND SURIMIRKETDATA

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE WOULD APPRECIATE RECENT DATA REGARDING SURIMI AND RELATED PRODUCTS IN JAPAN. THIS INFORMATION IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE ANALYSIS FOR THE GULF OF MEXICO GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN (PRIMARY CONCERN CROAKER).

2. THE PARTICULARS ARE LISTED BELOW:

A. FISHERY PRODUCT CONSUMPTION IN JAPAN: TOTAL; KNEADED PRODUCTS (SURIMI-BASED); FRESH AND FROZEN PRODUCTS OTHER THAN SURIMI; DRIED, SALTED AND SMOKED; CANNED. 1976, 1977 AND FORECAST FOR 1978.

B. SURIMI-BASED PRODUCT CONSUMPTION IN JAPAN: KAMABOKO (CROAKER AND ALL OTHER SPECIES), AGE, CHIKUWA, HAM SAUSAGE, SURIMI HAMBURGER, ETC. 1976, 1977 AND FORECAST FOR 1978.

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C. ANNUAL AVERAGE SURIMI PRICES ON TOKYO WHOLESALE MARKET; SHORE AND VESSEL-PROCESSED POLLOCK, SHORE-PROCESSED CROAKER, AND SHORE-PROCESSED ATKA MACKEREL SURIMI. 1974-1977 BY GRADE (SPECIAL, FIRST AND SECOND GRADES).

D. ANNUAL AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE AND PRODUCTION OF

KNEADED FISH PRODUCTS: KAMABOKO, FRIED KAMABOKO, CHIKUWA, NARUTO, FISH SAUSAGE, FRESH HAM SAUSAGE, AND OTHERS. 1975-1977.

E. JAPANESE LANDINGS - QUANTITY AND VALUE: ALASKA POLLOCK, CROAKERS, AND ATKA MACKEREL. 1976, 1977, AND 1978. (UPDATE TABLE 3, PAGE 16 OF FISHERIES STATISTICS OF JAPAN, 1975).

F. JAPANESE PRODUCTION OF FROZEN POLLOCK, ATKA MACKEREL, AND CROAKER SURIMI. 1976, 1977, AND FORECAST FOR 1978.

G. FOOD BALANCE SHEET FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS: DOMESTIC PRODUCTION FOR DOMESTIC USE AND EXPORT, AND IMPORTS. 1976 AND 1977 (UPDATE OF TABLE 20, PAGE 42 IN FISHERIES STATISTICS OF JAPAN, 1975).

H. JAPANESE IMPORTS OF POLLOCK AND CROAKER SURIMI BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, QUANTITY AND VALUE. 1976, 1977, AND FORECAST FOR 1978.

3. INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON INDICATES THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE JAPANESE MARKET FOR PRODUCTS MADE FROM SURIMI HAVE RECENTLY OCCURRED. IN 1977, THERE WAS REPORTEDLY A LARGE INCREASE IN THE OUTPUT OF SURIMI PRODUCTS IN JAPAN. APPARENTLY A LARGE PART OF THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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INCREASE WAS FROM ATKA MACKEREL. THE SURIMI MARKET MAY, THEREFORE, BE EXPANDING AT A TIME WHEN THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES TO JAPAN FROM WHICH SURIMI IS MADE IS DIMINISHING. ALSO, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE JAPANESE CONSUMERS PREFERENCE IS NO LONGER FOR POLLOCK SURIMI AND THAT IT MIGHT HAVE SWITCHED TO CROAKER SURIMI. CURRENT DATA ON THIS MARKET IS THEREFORE NEEDED TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL FOR THE USE OF THE LARGE GULF OF MEXICO CROAKER RESOURCE FOR SURIMI.

4. THE TIME SCHEDULE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS SHORT AS THE PLAN MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF MAY. REQUESTED INFORMATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 1978. VANCE

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